United Nations A/72/782–S/2018/178

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 65
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Namibia and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain, together with Germany and Namibia, has the honour to transmit herewith the Technical Operative Guidelines of the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network, agreed upon in December 2017 (see annex).

We also take this opportunity to inform you that Germany has taken over the annual chairmanship of the Focal Points Network, as of January 2018. Spain and Namibia, as the outgoing and next Chairs, respectively, are part of the Network's troika.

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Christoph **Heusgen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Neville Melvin **Gertze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jorge **Moragas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

18-03724 (E) 150318

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Namibia and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network Technical Operative Guidelines December 2017

Background and objectives

The Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network was created to assist Member States and regional organizations to improve and strengthen the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda at the origin of decision-making processes. The initiative stems from a commitment made by Spain during the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which was held in October 2015. The founding meeting of the Network was organized by Spain in September 2016, with the co-sponsorship of Canada, Chile, Japan, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Network affirms that Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations are the most influential actors in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and have the primary responsibility for ensuring that global commitments and obligations are effectively integrated into domestic policies and legislation.

The Network serves as a cross-regional forum and provides space in which to share experiences and best practices so as to advance the implementation of all Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security and to improve the coordination of funding and assistance programmes. The Network also encourages information flow with relevant forums, such as the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

Membership and actors

Membership of the Network is open and all Member States and regional organizations are encouraged to become members and assign a focal point to the Network.

Current Network membership includes 78 focal points.[1]

Members nominate themselves for the chairmanship. In any given year, the incumbent, previous and next Chairs constitute the troika, which is responsible for providing guidance to the Network on operational and substantive issues. Spain

[1] Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Union for the Mediterranean.

served as Chair in 2017. Germany will chair the Network in 2018 and Namibia in 2019.

The Network will meet once a year in one of its member States, the meeting generally being hosted by the incumbent Chair, with at least one additional follow-up meeting in New York.

Membership requests will be received by the secretariat of the Network and shared with the wider Network. Focal points are expected to exercise a leading role in women and peace and security efforts at the national and regional levels and to maintain direct and ongoing contact with other focal points in order to advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

The Network also recognizes civil society and local organizations as critical partners and will ensure their substantive participation in Network meetings and initiatives.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) serves as the secretariat of the Network and will assign a coordinator to manage that function. The secretariat provides technical and operational support to the troika and the Network. It will ensure regular communication with and the flow of information to Network members, manage knowledge products of the Network, support the planning of meetings and foster membership, advocacy and partnerships.

The troika will meet regularly with the secretariat to set timelines for the Network's actions to be carried out and to ensure that the goals of the Network are fulfilled.

Focus areas

Through regular engagement with focal points, the Network will promote momentum and continuity in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda at the national and regional levels. The Network areas of focus include:

- Raising gender equality as a matter of women's rights and a means to enhance peace and security.
- Promoting a gender perspective in all peace and security efforts and ensuring that a gender-responsive approach also includes a focus on men's gender roles, abuse against men and men's responsibility for promoting women's influence in peace and security.
- Promoting the development of high-impact national and regional action plans and strategies on women and peace and security.
- Integrating gender analysis in all security assessments and prevention approaches, including early warning, preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping;
- Strengthening women's participation, including at a high level, in the security sector and peace and political processes, such as peace agreements, implementation, reconciliation and reintegration, and mediation efforts.
- Addressing conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and other gender-based violations of rights and strengthening services and access to justice in response to such violations.
- Addressing existing and emerging security threats, such as violent extremism, terrorism and climate change.
- Promoting capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels for a variety of actors.

As a cross-cutting issue, the Network will aim to promote sustained and predictable funding for women and peace and security efforts, which constitute a cross-cutting issue.

Role of members

Network members are expected to share updates and progress on their women and peace and security actions through the Network's newsletter and at its meetings of the Network. Members are also encouraged to promote the Network and its objectives at relevant forums where the women and peace and security agenda can be advanced.

Communication

A newsletter will include, as appropriate, updates on proceedings of the Network, member action, innovation in policy and practice, as well as lessons and best practices, in order to increase exchange and expertise.